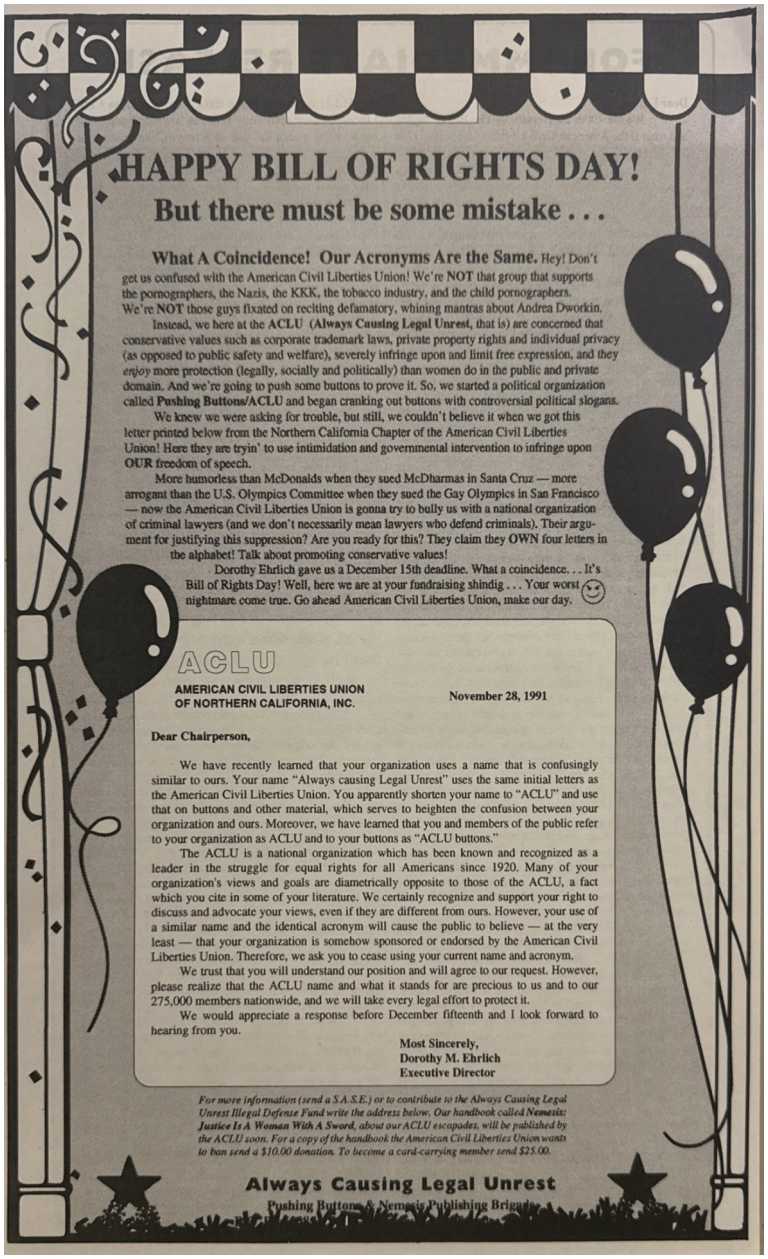

HAPPY BILL OF RIGHTS DAY!

But there must be some mistake . . .

What A Coincidence! Our Acronyms Are the Same. Hey! Don't get us confused with the American Civil Liberties Union! We're **NOT** that group that supports the pornographers, the Nazis, the KKK, the tobacco industry, and the child pornographers. We're **NOT** those guys fixated on reciting defamatory, whining mantras about Andrea Dworkin.

Instead, we here at the **ACLU (Always Causing Legal Unrest,** that is) are concerned that conservative values such as corporate trademark laws, private property rights and individual privacy (as opposed to public safety and welfare), severely infringe upon and limit free expression, and they *enjoy* more protection (legally, socially and politically) than women do in the public and private domain. And we're going to push some buttons to prove it. So, we started a political organization called **Pushing Buttons/ACLU** and began cranking out buttons with controversial political slogans.

We knew we were asking for trouble, but still, we couldn't believe it when we got this letter printed below from the Northern California Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union! Here they are tryin' to use intimidation and governmental intervention to infringe upon **OUR** freedom of speech.

More humorless than McDonalds when they sued McDharmas in Santa Cruz — more arrogant than the U.S. Olympics Committee when they sued the Gay Olympics in San Francisco — now the American Civil Liberties Union is gonna try to bully us with a national organization of criminal lawyers (and we don't necessarily mean lawyers who defend criminals). Their argument for justifying this suppression? Are you ready for this? They claim they **OWN** four letters in the alphabet! Talk about promoting conservative values!

Dorothy Ehrlich gave us a December 15th deadline. What a coincidence. . . It's Bill of Rights Day! Well, here we are at your fundraising shindig . . . Your worst nightmare come true. Go ahead American Civil Liberties Union, make our day.

ACLU

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, INC.

November 28, 1991

Dear Chairperson,

We have recently learned that your organization uses a name that is confusingly similar to ours. Your name "Always causing Legal Unrest" uses the same initial letters as the American Civil Liberties Union. You apparently shorten your name to "ACLU" and use that on buttons and other material, which serves to heighten the confusion between your organization and ours. Moreover, we have learned that you and members of the public refer to your organization as ACLU and to your buttons as "ACLU buttons."

The ACLU is a national organization which has been known and recognized as a leader in the struggle for equal rights for all Americans since 1920. Many of your organization's views and goals are diametrically opposite to those of the ACLU, a fact which you cite in some of your literature. We certainly recognize and support your right to discuss and advocate your views, even if they are different from ours. However, your use of a similar name and the identical acronym will cause the public to believe — at the very least — that your organization is somehow sponsored or endorsed by the American Civil Liberties Union. Therefore, we ask you to cease using your current name and acronym.

We trust that you will understand our position and will agree to our request. However, please realize that the ACLU name and what it stands for are precious to us and to our 275,000 members nationwide, and we will take every legal effort to protect it.

We would appreciate a response before December fifteenth and I look forward to hearing from you.

Most Sincerely,
Dorothy M. Ehrlich
Executive Director

For more information (send a S.A.S.E.) or to contribute to the Always Causing Legal Unrest Illegal Defense Fund write the address below. Our handbook called Nemesis: Justice Is A Woman With A Sword, about our ACLU escapades, will be published by the ACLU soon. For a copy of the handbook the American Civil Liberties Union wants to ban send a $10.00 donation. To become a card-carrying member send $25.00.

Always Causing Legal Unrest

Pushing Buttons & Nemesis Publishing Brigade

Decorated leaflet front distributed at the ACLU Bill of Rights Day fundraiser, December 15, 1991.

Happy Bill of Rights Day! But There Must Be Some Mistake...

Always Causing Legal Unrest - Bill of Rights Day Leaflet Front, December 15, 1991

On December 15, 1991, Nikki Craft and seven other women distributed this decorated leaflet at the American Civil Liberties Union's Bill of Rights Day fundraiser at the Westin St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco. This publication preserves the leaflet front as a standalone archival record. The related reverse-side press release is preserved separately as ACLU-03a.

The Public Action

The action took place on the two-hundredth anniversary of the Bill of Rights and on the response deadline set in a November 28, 1991 cease-and-desist letter from Dorothy M. Ehrlich, Executive Director of the ACLU of Northern California. Always Causing Legal Unrest answered the private institutional threat by reproducing the letter inside a political leaflet and carrying it into the organization's own public celebration.

Celebration as Satire

The front announces "HAPPY BILL OF RIGHTS DAY! But there must be some mistake..." inside a border of balloons, streamers, stars, and party decorations. The language of celebration is turned against the event. The leaflet identifies Always Causing Legal Unrest as a feminist organization and argues that an institution celebrated for defending controversial and hateful expression was invoking trademark law against a feminist political parody.

The Institutional Letter Made Public

The cease-and-desist letter is reproduced within the design rather than summarized. Readers can see the institution's own language: Ehrlich acknowledged the organizations' opposing views, claimed that use of the acronym could create confusion, demanded that the name be abandoned, and set December 15 as the response deadline. The leaflet therefore functions at once as political art, documentary evidence, and an invitation to public judgment.

Relationship to the ACLU Document Family

ACLU-03 should be read with ACLU-03a, the standalone "For Immediate Release" press release printed on the reverse side of the original leaflet. The front presents the institutional letter as a public exhibit; the reverse develops the feminist free-speech argument and asks readers to respond. ACLU-04 preserves the police report documenting the confrontation that followed as Craft attempted to enter the auditorium carrying the large framed protest artwork reproduced elsewhere in the collection.

Source and Provenance Note

The source is an original photograph supplied in 2026. Nikki Craft also holds the original November 28, 1991 cease-and-desist letter on ACLU stationery bearing Dorothy M. Ehrlich's signature. A scan of that original may be added to this document family later. The source image is included unchanged in this folder.

Content Note

The leaflet refers to pornography, child pornography, Nazis, the Ku Klux Klan, and political suppression. It is presented for historical research, feminist analysis, education, and public accountability.

Prepared for the Nikki Craft Archival Project.